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dispensary. The Government give half grant for the construction of buildings and for equipment when applications are made and they are considered under Part II Schemes."

Improvement of costly species of trees in forests

* 1617 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken to improve the costly species of trees to enrich the Government forests?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The working of the reserved forests is on the lines prescribed in the working plans which aim at improving and enriching the forest wealth including tree growth of sotly species of trees. having regard to the soil and climatic conditions, rainfall, etc."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The extent of forests in our State is only 13 per cent of the total extent of our State. Therefore, will the Government take steps to increase the extent of forests and the growing of costly species of trees?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Member that the Government are taking steps to extend the area for planting these costly species of trees. I may tell the hon. Member that the extent of forests taken up for raising various species of trees in 1954–55 is as follows :—

	ACS.
Teak	940
Eucalyptus	1,000
Wattle	1,050
Soft wood	1,125
Casuarina	618
Dual species	14,682."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Have the Government examined the possibility of planting costly species of trees like sandalwood and teak in the Kallakurichi taluk forests in South Arcot? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know when the Hon. Minister refers to certain species as costly species, whether he refers to them as costly ones with reference to the amount that they would yield or with reference to the rarity of the trees."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Member that ' valuable ' is the synonym for ' costly '."

Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Have the Government any idea of taking up the planting of balsa trees? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We are examining that question. Balsa can be planted in Malabar because

of the copious rains available there. But that tree is required elsewhere in the East Coast. Therefore, we have to see whether it would be worth while planting that tree."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The acreage mentioned by the Hon. Minister is in the regeneration area of the forest itself. But, may I know what steps the Government have taken to extend the area of forests? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We have first to regenerate denuded areas like the zamin and ex-panchayat forests. That the Government are doing now."

Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Sengipatti

* 1618 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any application for grant was received by the Government from the Sengipatti Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Tanjore district for the years 1953–54 and 1954–55; and

(*b*) if so, the amount sanctioned as against the amount applied for?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. No grant was sanctioned for 1953–54 as the accounts of the Sanatorium showed a surplus. The question of sanctioning a grant for 1954–55 will arise only if the accounts for that year show a net deficit."

Constitution of new panchayats

* 1619 *Q.*—SRI G. VAGHEESAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether steps are being taken to form some panchayats in the Community Projects Areas;

(*b*) how many panchayats have so far been formed in villages having a population of 1,000 and above; and

(*c*) how many are yet to be formed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken to form more panchayats in the Community Projects areas.

" (*b*) Five hundred and seventy-five new panchayats have been constituted up to 31st January 1955 in the State (including Community Projects areas).

" (*c*) Panchayats are yet to be formed in 4,379 more villages in the State."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that more than 500 panchayats have been formed in the State of Madras, may I know whether he is aware of the fact